

August 20, 2007

Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste  
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)

**Sonoma County Department of Transportation & Public Works  
Geyserville/River Road Roadside Ditch Cleaning Project  
Sonoma County (WDID# 1B07110WNSO)**

On July 13, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Richard Stabler, on behalf of the Sonoma County Department of Transportation and Public Works, requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Geyserville/River Road Roadside Ditch Cleaning Project, located in Sonoma County. The proposed project causes temporary impacts to 0.19 acres of ephemeral stream within the Geyserville Hydrologic Sub Unit No. 114.25.

The proposed project is located 1.5 miles north of Highway 128 on River Road Street in Geyserville, Sonoma County, California. The latitude and longitude is approximately 38.7190°N and -122.8953°W. The purpose of the project is to correct an existing drainage problem adjacent to River Road. Drainage water is standing in the roadside ditch and on River Road in some locations.

The existing ditch is approximately 7 feet wide, 1,200 feet long, and 1 foot deep. The roadside ditch at the project site flows intermittently but likely stands in most places year around. The ditch is likely fed by an underground spring and the ditch spills out onto the road creating puddles and semi-flooded areas in locations even in the summer months. The proposed project will deepen the existing ditch by about 16 inches, using a backhoe and excavating the ditch deeper and re-contouring the slope of the ditch such that it drains properly. The plant species encountered in the roadside ditch includes monkey flower, *Mimulus guttatus*, water plantain *Alyssa plantago-aquatica*, and cattail, *Typha angustifolia*, all of which are obligate hydrophytes; however the site is considered to be of very low quality and is expected to reestablish itself within one growing season. No sensitive species were present during the time of the survey and no sensitive species are expected to be impacted by the project. The backhoe (or excavator) will be followed by a dump truck and all excavated materials will be loaded directly to the dump truck and hauled off for final disposal in an upland permitted location. No equipment will be driven in the ditch. During construction, wattles will be installed in the ditch every hundred feet or less, with filter fabric to filter sediment laden water that may escape to nearby creeks. Following construction, appropriate erosion control devices from the Fishnet 4-C Road Maintenance Manual will be used on all areas where soil disturbance has occurred. These measures will include placing fiber roll check dams, as necessary, to intercept the flow of turbid water into the ditch. Post-construction monitoring will include onsite inspections throughout the rainy season to ensure sediments are not leaving the project site.

Compensatory mitigation for this project will not be required as the project is designed to be self-mitigating.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated into the final project plans in order to reduce and control soil erosion. All construction in and around waters of the state will be conducted during the dry season (April 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>), to minimize construction related impacts to hydrology and water quality.

The Sonoma County Department of Transportation & Public Works, Geyserville/River Road Roadside Ditch Cleaning Project is scheduled to begin in Summer 2007 and end in Fall 2007. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653, or at [sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov), or Darren Bradford at (707) 576-2466, [dbradford@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dbradford@waterboards.ca.gov), within 21 days of posting of this notice.

This is a brief summary of this project; all related documents and comments received are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skyline Blvd., Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.